<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 31, 2007. Claims 8, 10, 18, 20, 22 and 38 to 46 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 8, 18 and 22 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 18, 22, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,706 (Fan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,366 (Kayashima), Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view of Kayashima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,872 (Yonenaga), and Claims 40, 43 and 46 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view of Kayashima and further in view of Official Notice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention controls the execution of processes in a data processing apparatus. In the invention, the data processing apparatus maintains a connection limitation table of connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other. When a request that includes a kind of data process to be executed is received from an external apparatus, a port number of a dynamically allocated port for the requested kind of data process is notified to the external apparatus. Discrimination information of the external apparatus transmitting the request and the notified port number are associated with each other, connection limitation information is formed and registered in the table. Then, when data addressed to the allocated port is received from an external apparatus, control over

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execution of the process is provided. Specifically, in a case where it is discrimination that the connection limitation information is registered, a process corresponding to the allocated port is executed based on the received data. On the other hand, in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered, the process corresponding to the allocated port is not executed based on the received data, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 8 is directed to a data processing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, the data processing apparatus comprising a storage unit that stores therein a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other, a reception unit that receives a request transmitted from an external apparatus via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process to be executed, a port number notifying unit that notifies the external apparatus of a port number of a dynamically allocated port for the kind of data process included in the request received by the reception unit, a registration unit that associates discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the request and the port number which was notified by the port number notifying unit with each other, forms connection limitation information, and registers the formed connection limitation information in the connection limitation table stored by the storage unit, a data receiving unit that receives data addressed to the allocated port, from an external apparatus, and a control unit that discriminates whether or not the connection

limitation information in which the port number corresponding to the allocated port of the data received by the data receiving unit and the discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by the data receiving unit are associated with each other has been registered in the connection limitation table by the registration unit, wherein the control unit controls to execute a process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controls not to execute the process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by the data receiving unit.

Claims 18 and 22 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 8.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 8, 18 and 22, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a control unit/step that discriminates whether or not connection limitation information in which a port number corresponding to a dynamically allocated port of data received by a data receiving unit/step and discrimination information of an external apparatus which transmitted the data received by the data receiving unit/step are associated with each other has been registered in a

connection limitation table by a registration unit/step, wherein the control unit/step controls to execute a process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by the data receiving unit/step in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controls not to execute the process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by the data receiving unit/step in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving unit/step.

In Fan, a firewall controls an ACL (access control list) to change over transfer/non-transfer of a packet sent from a node of an external network to a host PC on a LAN. If a packet to be sent from the host PC to the node on the external network is received, the ACL is dynamically changed so that a response of the node to the received packet can be transferred to the host PC. For example, if a packet to a node A on the external network is received from the host PC, it is necessary to be able to transfer a response packet from the node A to the host PC. Accordingly, information concerning the node A is added to the ACL so that the host PC can be temporarily accessed from the node A.

Kayashima discloses that a server notifies a client computer of a port number. Accordingly, a combination of Fan and Kayashima would, at best, have resulted in the following operation. If the firewall receives the packet to the node A on the external network from the host PC, the firewall adds the node A to the ACL and also notifies the

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node A of the corresponding port number. After then, if the firewall receives the packet sent from the node A to the relevant port (number), the firewall processes the received packet according to the new ACL. However, in a case where the firewall receives a packet sent to the relevant port from another node B, if the node B has already been registered in the ACL (namely, if the node B is a communicable node), the firewall processes the received packet. At that time, if the node A sends the packet to the relevant port, the node A cannot communicate because the relevant port has already been used by the node B. The reason why such inconvenience occurs is that: (i) the firewall does not associate (and register therein) the dynamically allocated port with the node A, (ii) the firewall is not controlled so that, even if the node which accessed the port is the communicable node, it does not execute any process if the relevant node is not associated with the port; and (iii) since the firewall does not dynamically allocate the port, there is a high possibility that the port number is involuntarily known by the node B. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Fan and Kayashima would not have resulted in the features of the present invention.

Yonenaga has been studied, but it is also not seen to disclose anything that, when combined with Fan and/or Kayashima, would have resulted in the features of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 8, 18 and 22, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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